

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A washing machine cabinet comprising:
  - a body having an open front side, the body comprising:
    - a base plate at a bottom of the body;
    - a pair of side panels on both sides of the base plate;
    - a rear panel in rear of the base plate and the side panels; and
    - a top panel on the side panels and the rear panel; and
  - a front panel in front of the body having top and bottom frames and flanges and a plurality of notch recesses for preventing stress concentration of the cabinet; wherein
    - the notch recesses are formed within and adjacent to ~~at~~ both ends of top and bottom flanges and in the vicinity of both ends of the top and bottom frames, respectively.
2. (Currently Amended) The washing machine cabinet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the notch recesses are formed at ~~an outline~~ a peripheral part of the front panel.
3. (Currently Amended) The washing machine cabinet as claimed in claim 2, the ~~outline~~ peripheral part of the front panel comprising:
  - a top flange bent from a top edge in a rear direction;
  - a pair of side flanges bent from both sides in the rear direction; and
  - a bottom flange bent from a bottom edge in the rear direction.
4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing machine cabinet as claimed in claim 3~~ A washing machine cabinet comprising:

a body having an open front side, the body comprising:

a base plate at a bottom of the body;

a pair of side panels on both sides of the base plate;

a rear panel in rear of the base plate and the side panels; and

a top panel on the side panels and the rear panel; and

a front panel in front of the body having notch recesses for preventing stress concentration of the cabinet, the outer periphery of the front panel comprising:

a top flange bent from a top edge in a rear direction;

a pair of side flanges bent from both sides in the rear direction; and

a bottom flange bent from a bottom edge in the rear direction,

wherein the notch recesses are formed entirely within and at both ends of the side flanges.

6. (Original) The washing machine cabinet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the notch recesses are "U" shaped.

7. (Previously Presented) The washing machine cabinet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the notch recesses are formed at one side of portions where the front panel is assembled to the body.

8. (Currently Amended) A washing machine comprising:

a washing tub having an inner tub rotatably installed to hold a laundry for washing and an outer tub holding the inner tub;

a drive means for rotating the inner tub;

a body holding the washing tub and the drive means inside, the body comprising:

a base plate at a bottom of the body;

a pair of side panels on both sides of the base plate;

a rear panel in rear of the base plate and the side panels; and

a top panel on the side panels and the rear panel; and

a front panel in front of the body having top and bottom frames and flanges and a plurality of notch recesses for preventing stress concentration; wherein

the notch recesses are formed within and adjacent to ~~at~~ both ends of the top and bottom flanges and in the vicinity of both ends of the top and bottom frames, respectively.

9. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the notch recesses are formed at ~~an outline~~ a peripheral part of the front panel.

10. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 9, the outline part of the front panel comprising:

a top flange bent from a top edge in a rear direction;

a pair of side flanges bent from both sides in the rear direction; and

a bottom flange bent from a bottom edge in the rear direction.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The washing machine as claimed in claim 10, A washing machine comprising:~~

a body having an open front side, the body comprising:

a base plate at a bottom of the body;

a pair of side panels on both sides of the base plate;

a rear panel in rear of the base plate and the side panels; and

a top panel on the side panels and the rear panel; and

a front panel in front of the body having notch recesses for preventing stress concentration, the outer periphery of the front panel comprising:

a top flange bent from a top edge in a rear direction;

a pair of side flanges bent from both sides in the rear direction; and

a bottom flange bent from a bottom edge in the rear direction,

wherein the notch recesses are formed entirely within and at both ends of the side flanges.

13. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the notch recesses are "U" shaped.

14. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the notch

14. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the notch recesses are formed at one side of portions where the front panel is assembled to the body.

15. (Previously Presented) The washing machine cabinet of claim 1, wherein the top and bottom flanges extend toward the open front side and the notch recesses are located at each corner of the top and bottom flanges.

16. (Previously Presented) The washing machine cabinet of claim 15, wherein the notch recesses open toward the open front side of the cabinet body.

17. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 8, wherein the top and bottom flanges extend toward the open front side and the notch recesses are located at each corner of the top and bottom flanges.

18. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 17, wherein the notch recesses open toward the open front side of the cabinet body.

19. (New) A washing machine cabinet comprising:

a body having an open front side, the body comprising:

a base plate at a bottom of the body;

a pair of side panels on both sides of the base plate;

a rear panel in rear of the base plate and the side panels; and

a front panel in front of the body having top and bottom frames, and flanges formed around the entire periphery of the front panel, and a plurality of notch recesses for preventing stress concentration of the cabinet; wherein

the notch recesses are formed at both ends of top and bottom flanges and in the vicinity of both ends of the top and bottom frames at a depth that is substantially less than the depth of the flanges, respectively.

20. (New) A washing machine comprising:

a washing tub having an inner tub rotatably installed to hold a laundry for washing and an outer tub holding the inner tub;

a drive means for rotating the inner tub;

a body holding the washing tub and the drive means inside, the body comprising:

a base plate at a bottom of the body;

a pair of side panels on both sides of the base plate;

a rear panel in rear of the base plate and the side panels; and

a top panel on the side panels and the rear panel; and

a front panel in front of the body having top and bottom frames, and flanges formed around the entire periphery of the front panel, and a plurality of notch recesses for preventing stress concentration; wherein

the notch recesses are formed at both ends of the top and bottom flanges and in the vicinity of both ends of the top and bottom frames at a depth that is substantially less than the depth of the flanges, respectively.

of both ends of the top and bottom frames at a depth that is substantially less than the depth of the flanges, respectively.